

Genesis 32 – Elements of Effective Prayer

July 12, 2020 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER

- MOTIVATION
- RELATIONSHIP
- FAITH
- THANKFULNESS
- SIMPLICITY
- CONFESSION
- ALIGNMENT



Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced a dramatic answer to prayer? What happened?
2. Have you ever been particularly disappointed because a prayer was not answered? How did you process that?
3. What else do you remember about the sermon (review the main points above)? Did anything impact or challenge you? Do you have any questions?
4. Read Genesis 18:17-33 (Here, God informs Abraham that the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are facing judgment. Abraham responds by praying for mercy. This is the first detailed prayer that we see in the Bible).
 - a) Why do you think that God revealed His plan for Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham?
 - b) Now read Genesis 19:27-28. How do you think Abraham felt about his prayer not being answered the way he had hoped?
 - c) Do our prayers for unsaved people make a difference? (see 1 Timothy 2:1-4)
 - d) Why do you think that God doesn't always save the people we pray for? (see Ezekiel 33:11 and Zechariah 7:12-13)
 - e) What needs to happen in order for someone to be saved? (see Romans 10:11-14)
 - f) How should we pray concerning unsaved people? (see Matthew 9:37-38, Ephesians 6:19-20, and Colossians 4:3)
5. Read Exodus 32:9-14
 - a) How is this story similar to the story of Abraham praying for the wicked cities?
 - b) How is it different?
 - c) Why do you think the outcomes were not the same?
 - d) What was Moses able to point to in his prayer that Abraham was not?
6. Read Ezekiel 22:29-30
 - a) Why was God upset with His people?
 - b) What does it mean to stand in the gap on behalf of the land? (See Psalm 106:23 – you should recognize the reference being made)
 - c) Jesus is the high priest and mediator between God and people, but do you think we also have a role in “standing in the gap” today? (see 1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 8:3-5)
 - d) In what ways can you stand in the gap on behalf of your country and the people God has placed in your life?
7. Spend some time praying together for our world. Also pray for any specific prayer needs in your group.